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TOWN COUNCIL.

ORDINANCE.

AN ORDINANCE designating the streets and highways in the Town of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, through and upon which the underground conduits and cables of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company may be placed, and the manner of placing the same.

The Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company, its successors and assigns, be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to construct and maintain for the uses and purposes of its business a system of subways, underground conduits and cables, including the necessary manholes and street openings and lateral connections to property lines beneath the surface of the streets and highways of the Town of Bloomfield designated in section 2 of this ordinance, and to lease, maintain and operate in said system of subways or underground conduits the wires and cables or other electrical conductors necessary for its said business; also to construct, maintain and operate for such purposes a system of electrical conductors in connection with the necessary poles for distribution from the electrical conductors placed in subways or underground conduits hereinbefore mentioned.

Section 2. That the following streets and highways are hereby designated and prescribed for the full length thereof, for the construction of the underground conduits and cables of said company, as follows:

First—Bloomfield Avenue, Broad Street, Belleville Avenue, Park Avenue, Liberty Street, Montgomery Street, Spruce Street, Williamson Avenue, Franklin Street, Washington Avenue, Berkeley Avenue, Glenwood Avenue, Linden Avenue, Maolis Avenue, Dodd Street, Watsessing Avenue, Orange Street, Arlington Avenue, Bay Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Thomas Street, Newark Avenue, Beach Street, Prospect Street, New Street, Oakland Avenue, Park Place, Osborn Street, Walnut Street, Clarendon Place, Baldwin Street and Hazlewood Road; said Company may on the same streets and highways erect the necessary distributing poles, fixtures and supports for distributing its electrical conductors, crossing, across and above the surface of the street in connection with said system.

Second—Provided, however, that no distribution pole or poles shall be erected in front of any of the streets or highways of said town without also first securing the consent of the abutting property owner upon that portion of the street upon which the said pole or poles are proposed to be erected.

Third—A plan of said system of subways and underground conduits shall be presented to and be approved by the Council before the work of construction shall commence, and all aerial wires shall be not less than twenty feet above ground, and all the wires and poles shall be so located as in no way to interfere with the safety or convenience of persons travelling on or above the streets or highways.

Section 3. The said Company may, with the consent of the Council and abutting property-owners as above prescribed, erect and maintain pole lines and the usual appurtenances and wires affixed thereto along the streets, avenues and public places, and parts of streets, avenues and public places of said town, not hereinbefore designated. But whenever required so to do by said Council, it shall provide subways or underground conduits in any street or part of a street (excepting that on Bloomfield and Glenwood Avenues such requirement shall not be made earlier than January 1, 1905) in which poles may have been or shall hereafter be erected under the provisions of this ordinance, or any existing ordinance, or any ordinance hereafter adopted, for all that part of the line consisting of twenty or more circuits, and shall thereupon remove from such part of the line all poles and other structures above the surface of the ground, except distributing poles erected as hereinbefore provided for. Upon the completion of the conduits or subways in any street or section thereof the said Company shall cause its overhead wires, cables and poles, except such distributing poles as shall have been duly authorized to be removed from the streets in which conduits are constructed, and in the event of the failure of said Company to remove the wires and poles within ten days after notice so to do shall have been given by or on behalf of the Council to any officer or agent of said Company, the Council or agents may remove the said wires and poles at the expense of the said Company.

Section 4. That said subways or underground conduits shall be made of wood or other suitable material and shall be laid when duly authorized, not less than eighteen inches beneath the surface of the street, and not less than one foot, nor more than five feet, outside of the curb line, and shall not occupy a space to exceed two feet in width and four feet in depth, excepting where existing pipes or obstructions may require a deviation from such location or size, in which cases such subways and conduits shall be located under the approval of the Chairman of the Road Committee in such places and on such lines and of such size as to preserve the existing rights of other persons or companies. The subways or conduits shall not be used to contain wire or conductors for the transmission of electricity for any other purpose than as in this ordinance is provided, to-wit: The carrying of the telephone and telegraph conductors of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company only. All manholes shall be strongly built and shall be located beneath the surface of the streets at such points along the line of the subways or underground conduits as may be necessary and convenient for placing and operating the electrical conductors which said company may from time to time place in said subways or underground conduits, and as shall be approved by the Chairman of the Road Committee, and shall be so constructed as not to interfere with the passage of the public over and along the said street, and the electrical conductors and conduits thereof shall be placed so as not to injure the property of any person or any public or private sewer, water or gas pipe. No street or highway shall be opened by said company without a written permit for that purpose, signed by the Chairman of the Road Committee of the Town of Bloomfield, stating the opening authorized to be made thereunder, which permit shall remain in the possession of the person in charge of said works, and be by him exhibited to any police officer of the Town of Bloomfield or any member of the Town Government upon demand. The said company, its servants and employees, in the laying of any subways or underground conduits, in excavating and replacing the earth in any streets, and the pavement thereon, shall be under the supervision of the Chairman of the Road Committee, and shall promptly comply with his orders, the earth removed in making any excavation shall be restored, and the pavement, if any, taken up shall be relaid by said Company in a thorough, workman like manner, and in such manner as to prevent any sinking of the pavement; the same shall be maintained by said Company in as good condition as the surrounding pavement, until such street or highways in such case shall be renewed or repaved by the Town, the cost of restoring the earth, macadam, or otherwise arising from such excavation, and the laying of pavements and repairs thereto, caused by the opening of any such street, alley, highway or public place, shall be paid by said Company, but the said work shall be done under the supervision and control of the Chairman of the Road Committee. In case the said Company shall fail or neglect to restore the earth removed in making the excavation, or to restore the pavement taken up, in the manner aforesaid, or to properly maintain the same before the expiration of forty-eight hours after notice in writing to do such work shall have been served upon such Company, or one of its officers, agents, servants or employees in charge of such work, by the Chairman of the Road Committee, then such work shall be done at the expense of said Company by the Town Council or its agents, and the cost shall be paid by said Company upon presentation to it of the bills therefor certified as correct by the Chairman of the Road Committee, and the said Company shall also pay all expenses to which the Town of Bloomfield shall be put by neglect of the said Company or its employees in the doing of any work, or in the doing of the same in an unworkman-like manner.

Section 5. The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company shall provide sufficient space in said subways or underground conduits to accommodate the telephone and telegraph wires operated by the police patrol, the police and fire departments of the Town of Bloomfield, and will furnish the labor to place said wires in the subways, the Town to furnish the material necessary for said work.

Section 6. Be it further ordained, that nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to grant unto the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company an exclusive right, or to prevent the grant of similar privileges to other companies for like purposes on any of the streets or highways of the said town.

Section 7. Be it further ordained, in consideration hereof, the said New York and New Jersey Telephone Company agrees to pay to the Town of Bloomfield such taxes as shall be lawfully assessed upon said Company, and as further consideration to provide the Town of Bloomfield with telephones free of rental or maintenance charges not less than four (4) in number, including the free telephones now in use by the Town, an additional set of telephone instruments for each fifty (50) subscribers secured by said Company in excess of two hundred (200) subscribers until such number of free instruments shall be fifteen (15). These free telephones shall be used only by the officers or employees of the Town on the official business of the Town, and to be located in such public buildings or offices on the line or lines of said Telephone Company in the Town of Bloomfield as shall be designated by the Town Council in writing. Telephone service for the school system of the Town shall be furnished by the Telephone Company at 50 per cent. of the Company's regular rates.

Section 8. And be it further ordained, that the said Company shall indemnify the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, against and assume all liability and damages which may at any time arise, come or occur to said Town from or by reason of any injury to persons or property from the doing of any work herein or from the neglect or default of the Company or its employees, or from its or their failure to comply with the provisions of any ordinance of the Town relative to the use of streets or other public places, especially as to the putting of lights or barriers at or around any excavation, and the commencement by the Company of work under this ordinance shall be an acceptance thereof and an agreement on the part of said Company, for itself, its successors or assigns, to pay to the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, in its corporate capacity any sum of money for which it shall at any time become liable to said Town under the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 9. The charge for service of the telephone within the Town of Bloomfield shall not exceed the rates charged for similar service in the Town of Montclair.

Section 10. No tree shall be removed or cut and no branches trimmed or broken by said Company or its agents or servants without permission first had and obtained from the owner of the soil on which said tree is standing, and of the land abutting upon said street or highway upon which the said tree is standing, and from the Chairman of the Road Committee of the Town of Bloomfield, under a penalty of twenty-five dollars for each and every offence. The said amount to be recovered in a manner provided by law for the recovery of penalties for the violation of ordinances.

Section 11. All poles shall be painted a dark green color and shall be repainted whenever the Chairman of the Road Committee shall so direct.

Section 12. This ordinance and all rights of said Company, its successors or assigns hereunder, shall terminate at the end of thirty-five years from the date of its adoption. And thereafter the Town of Bloomfield shall have and retain all its rights under this ordinance to use the said subways and conduits for its wires, but without any obligation on the part of the Company to maintain said subways or conduits thereafter solely for the benefit of the Town. And this ordinance shall not be binding upon the Town of Bloomfield, unless the said The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company shall signify its acceptance thereof in writing under its seal within sixty days from the date of its adoption by the Council of the Town of Bloomfield, and until such writing shall be filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Bloomfield.

Section 13. That at the time of the filing of the acceptance of this ordinance by The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company as herein provided, the said Company shall enter into and file with the Town a bond to the Town of Bloomfield, to be approved by the Town Council of said Town, in the sum of two thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of each and every one of the provisions contained in this ordinance, and the payment of all sums which may become due to the said Town thereunder. Such bond and the sureties thereon shall be renewed and approved at least once in every five years. And the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield shall have the right to revoke and annul this ordinance and the privileges hereby granted upon due notice to the said The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company of not less than thirty days, in case said Company shall wilfully violate or refuse to conform to any of the terms and conditions of this ordinance for ten days after being duly notified in writing of such violation or refusals.

Section 14. That said Company is hereby required to commence and complete the work of construction of at least three-fourths of a mile of the subways and underground conduits herein authorized within six months of its acceptance of this ordinance, and in the event of the failure of the said Company to build within one year from the enactment of this ordinance at least three-fourths mile of said subways or conduits on the streets authorized in this ordinance, the provisions of this ordinance shall become void and of no effect, unless the time for the completion of any such work shall be extended by the resolution of the Council.

Section 15. Pending the placing of its conduits cables and wires under ground pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance, The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company shall have the right to maintain as many of the poles and poles erected within the limits of the Town of Bloomfield, by virtue of an ordinance entitled "An ordinance granting permission to The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company to construct and maintain telephone and telegraph lines through the Township of Bloomfield and designating the streets or highways in which the poles of said Company may be placed and the manner of placing the same," approved by the Township Committee of the Township of Bloomfield, July 21, 1890, as may be necessary, subject, however, at all times to the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 16. All the provisions of this ordinance shall continue in force under any form of government which may in future supersede the present form of government of the Town of Bloomfield.

Section 17. Should any change be made in the course or grade of any streets, avenues or highways in the Town of Bloomfield by the authority of the Town Council, then all subways and underground conduits along the line of such streets, avenues or highways, shall be made to conform to such new course or grade, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company.

Section 18. That The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company shall pay the Treasurer of the Town of Bloomfield all advertising and printing fees incurred by the Town of Bloomfield in connection with the preparation and passage of this ordinance.

Ordinance adopted March 3, 1902.

THEODORE H. WARD,
Chairman Town Council.

Attest:

WM. L. JOHNSON,
Town Clerk.

ORDINANCE.

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF ESSEX STREET, IN THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

The Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, do ordain as follows:

That the public highway heretofore known as Essex Street from the westerly line of Walnut Street to the easterly line of Berkeley Avenue shall hereafter be known and designated as Jerome Place.

Ordinance adopted March 3, 1902.

THEODORE H. WARD,
Chairman Town Council.

Attest:

WM. L. JOHNSON,
Town Clerk.

BOROUGH TROUBLES.

A LIVELY HEARING.

Before the East Orange City Council on the Application of the Essex ... Railway Company for a Trol-

BOROUGH REPORT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1.

Unpaid Taxes Accumulating Large Increase in Sidewalk Work—Extensive Park Project Underway.

The annual report of the Borough of Glen Ridge for the fiscal year ending March 1, 1902, has been issued. One feature of the report that has occasioned some comment is steady increase in the amount of unpaid taxes accumulating on the tax books of the Borough. The first fiscal year of the borough was marked by phenomenally prompt payment of taxes on the part of the citizens there with the exception of a few who had some doubt as to the legal standing of the municipality, but who as soon as the doubt was cleared away promptly paid up.

The next two years the payment of taxes nearly equalled the duplicate, but in the fourth fiscal year the uncollected taxes amounted to over $400, and for 1899 nearly $1,000 of the duplicate remains uncollected, while for the year 1900 the large sum of $6,846.86 still stands on the tax books, and for the year 1901 the Collector reports $13,761.30, and according to the report at the close of the fiscal year there was a total of $20,341.61 of unpaid taxes on the tax books.

The unpaid taxes are of course an asset, but a burdensome one, and while they may be used as collateral for loans the prompt taxpayers have to bear the burden of the interest charges on such loans. For the past two years the percentage of unpaid taxes has been higher in the borough than in this town. The bonded debt of the borough for storm roads and sewers was decreased during the year to the amount of $15,000, but a new issue of bonds for park purposes of $35,000 made a net increase in the bonded indebtedness of $20,000, and the total outstanding is now $154,000 exclusive of school bonds.

The "bills payable" or borough notes outstanding have been reduced $4,350 by payments of said notes from the collections for back taxes and $3,000 by the extinction of the sewer notes from the proceeds of assessments upon property benefited. On the other hand, the outstanding notes have been increased $2,750 by issues for new sidewalks laid and flagstone purchased, and $10,500 by issues from time to time to extend the stone roads. The proceeds of the last mentioned notes have completed the stone road system so far that such future extensions as may be required from time to time will be provided for in the general tax levy each year without further increase of the debt beyond about $1,000 due the contractor for work nearly or quite completed.

An effort will be made as soon as possible to fund the road notes at a reduction in the rate of interest (now 5 per cent) on conditions which will permit of their retirement at the rate of $1,000 each year until all are paid.

The Park Committee's report indicates that some very important work is being done in the borough in regard to an elaborate park. Of the $35,000 bond issue for parks $17,934.38 has been expended.

In addition to the Moffet and Dodd tracts already purchased and paid for, the Council has arranged for the purchase, on satisfactory terms, of the tract belonging to the Glen Ridge Quarry and Mining Company, fronting 222½ feet on Bloomfield Avenue east of and adjoining the Dodd tract, but the formal transfer has been delayed to meet formalities required by the Borough Counsel. When that transfer has been completed the land acquired will have an aggregate frontage of 1,361 feet on Bloomfield Avenue, and will extend in depth to the middle of the brook or to the railroad right of way.

The Council has been in negotiation with the owners of other tracts, but has not yet succeeded in agreeing upon terms except in one case where transfer has been delayed by other matters in controversy. In two cases agreement with the owners has been found impossible and the attorneys of the borough have been instructed to condemn.

The committee have had a topographical map made by a landscape architect, laying out the plan of the park in an orderly and systematic manner; they have ordered such surveys as seemed necessary to determine just how much land is required in each of a number of cases, and they have labored with encouragement of success to interest the citizens of Montclair in the acquisition by them of that part of the Glen which lies within the limits of the town of Montclair, so that that section may be joined to that within the borough and thus substantially increase the size and value of the park. The work of creation of the park is one of great detail, requiring time and patience to bring it to fruition.

The Water Committee reports that no additional hydrants were put in during the year. No new arrangement has yet been consummated with the Orange Water Company. The proposition to purchase their plant does not meet with favor, and negotiations for a renewal of the present contract on as reasonable terms as possible are now pending.

The year just closed was a record breaker in the amount of stone walks laid. The new walk laid was 7,861 feet, and 1,487 feet of walk relaid. Four cases of smallpox during the year entailed an additional expense of $1,500 in the Board of Health's expenditures.

NO ANNEXATION.

ADVICES FROM TRENTON THAT THE BILL HAS BEEN DROPPED.

The Anti-Annexation Demonstration Had Good Effect—Other Powerful Influences Interposed Against the Measure.

The latest advices from the State Capital concerning the annexation bill are highly encouraging to the anti-annexation people and discouraging to the advocates of that project. The latest report is to the effect that the bill is to be dropped, and while it has been reported favorably in the Senate the Trenton correspondents say that it will not be taken up and passed by that body.

The formidable and vigorous opposition against the bill that sprang up suddenly here when annexation assumed a serious aspect undoubtedly did much toward checking the bill, but it is believed that powerful but silent influence has been brought to bear to secure the abandonment of the bill for the time being at least.

To those disposed to take a rational view of the annexation it was obvious that the opposition to the measure was of such a character in numbers and influence and in taxpaying proportions that it was unwise to force annexation in the face of it without material injury to the benefits that it was honestly thought could be secured by incorporation with Newark.

Some people had talked annexation and had advised it, and deemed it an important and proper thing for public discussion, but when irresponsible parties relying on the passive if not active support of some prominent and influential citizens undertook to bring about annexation by a jamming process many of those who had favored annexation from a theoretical standpoint and were on the high road to becoming active supporters of it, suddenly reversed about and placed themselves in opposition to the annexation bill introduced at Trenton.

To any one desirous of acting in a manner conducive to the best interests of the people of this town there was no other course open but to oppose the annexation bill or to refuse to lend their influence to its passage. The majority of the people realized that annexation was not a thing to be trifled with. Its consequences, whether good or bad, were to be perpetual and the act once carried out could not be undone.

In the case of the present scheme to annex to Newark people were urged to rush into it regardless of consequences. The undignified argument of "well, we can't be any worse off" was the only one offered in support of the movement to surrender municipal independence. The threatened stampede was wisely checked by people who believed that any question of public policy should be carefully studied from the standpoint of its "after effects" before being accepted.

When the people began to look this annexation project squarely in the face they began to realize their true position in the matter and the unfavorable attitude they would be placed in with respect to their future prospects if they forced themselves into Newark under such a one-sided arrangement.

The city of Newark was not a partner to the scheme. The territory of the town of Bloomfield was to be an unconditional gift to the city, but the city was not placed under any special or implied promises to care for the new territory forced upon it.

The Greater Newark ... be a possibility of the future, ... its creation should be dealt with ... statesman-like matter with due ... ion ... ial consideration of the interests ... ute, ... ry part of the proposed large mun... the ...ity. The present agitation has ... mplished two results likely to have a wholesome effect in public affairs. It has evidenced to the annexationists that there is a strong public sentiment to be dealt with in effecting any change in the form of government of this town. On the other hand those responsible for the conduct of public affairs here must take cognizance of the danger signals apparent in the annexation petition.

THE SPRING ELECTION.

HOLMAN BILL DEFEATED AND ELECTION WILL BE HELD.

The Town Clerk Issues Official Notice—Lively Stir in Political Circles—Petitions for Independent Nominations Now in Circulation.

Present indications point to a local spring election. The Holman bill was defeated in the Legislature on Wednesday afternoon by a vote of 24 to 18. This bill, merging spring elections with all elections throughout the State, was introduced early in the current session of the Legislature, but no disposition was manifested towards taking it up for passage, and the municipalities that hold elections in March have done so.

Official preparations for the spring election are under way. The Town Clerk has issued the election notice. The political leaders who manipulate the Citizens' ticket are taking steps towards making nominations by petition, and those present members of the Town Council desiring re-election are looking up their constituency. If there is no interference by the Legislature with the spring election, and if the annexation issue is not injected into the contest, there will be a lively battle at the polls on the eighth day of next month.

It is very likely that opposing tickets will be in the field in all the three wards for Ward Councilmen, and possibly for Councilman-at-Large.

The political situation with respect to local affairs is important and interesting. Starting with the high tax rate as a paramount issue, there are numerous other factors of lesser importance that contribute to a widespread dissatisfaction. It is safe to assume that in the case of an election the considerable body of people represented in the annexation petition will be arrayed against the local government in the approaching election, and many who were ardent anti-annexationists are too ready to blame the government for the unsatisfactory local conditions that made such an uprising in favor of annexation possible.

The existing conditions in local affairs that are the cause of such general complaints, are not attributable to any particular administration of late years, and the present administration can truthfully say the burden was bequeathed to it. From a general standpoint the tax burden can be traced to two causes. One is that when Glen Ridge seceded and took away one-third of the taxable valuations of the town, the people did not get to work and adjust the governmental machinery to conform with the reduced condition of the town in territory and resources, but on the other hand, encouraged a tendency towards improved and enlarged governmental facilities and conveniences.

In the second place, the people incurred large bonded indebtedness for roads and school-houses right on top of a heavy bond issue for sewers. A high tax rate was the natural sequence, but the public money has not been wasted. The town government in its personnel and conveniences is of creditable standard. The town officers excite the admiration of visitors from other towns the size of Bloomfield, and the well-appointed facilities for conducting the public business are beyond criticism in respect to quality.

The school-houses and excellent roads are other benefical results of the liberal policy of the citizens with respect to incurring and assuming bonded indebtedness. It is not easy to point out where the replacing of one set of men with another set of men, such as the dissatisfied elements propose, is going to improve conditions so materially in so far as taxes are concerned.

Inexperienced men, as a rule, do not surpass experienced men in the ordinary affairs of business, and neither can they in public business, or, as some people prefer to call it, "local politics." If the people can restrain themselves from being allured into issuing any further "promises to pay" in the shape of bonds and the town keeps up the slow but steady development that has marked past years, the tax rate will of its own accord settle to a satisfactory basis.

...," "Star Spangled ... ally 'Round the Flag,"